

The Sun.

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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Governor at Buffalo.

Confronted with the simple facts, we are forced to conclude that Governor HUGHES last night rejected the honorable course of the statesman and elected to follow a more devious trail. The Governor's whole duty as well as his unusual opportunity was to explain to the people of the State that direct nominations bill which his interest has inspired and for which his own efforts must be the chief impulse. Beyond the discharge of this duty no present situation could warrant his going.

It is therefore with unaffected regret that we find a man in whom we have discerned many admirable qualities, and to whose assistance on several crucial occasions we have contributed our modest share, stooping to such offensive deceptions as the following:

"Why should the plan be opposed? One thing emerges clear and defined as the real reason for the opposition. That is that there is given to the voters the right to pass upon candidates."

In these words the Governor of this State adopts as his own the whole campaign of insinuation, innuendo and open abuse which has been directed with every criticism of his measure. Henceforth we are to have no discussion but defamation—not argument but assault. Once more we are to have the pleasing spectacle of a reform campaign going to the gutter for its ammunition. We repeat, we are disappointed. We believe the people of this State had reason and the right to expect better things from CHARLES EVERTS HUGHES.

Some News for Chairman Payne.

The Payne bill contains a provision for the imposition of a tax on coffee equal in amount to any export tax imposed by a producing country. It is charged that this hides a "joker," that the result would be a duty on coffee and that the American consumer would be compelled to pay both taxes, the export and the import. An export tax is imposed by the coffee producing States of Brazil, the chief source of American supply. To the charge thus made Mr. PAYNE replies that "such a result could not happen as other South American countries who are rivals of Brazil for the coffee trade of the United States do not impose an export tax," and these would therefore be able to undersell Brazil, thus securing our trade or compelling the Brazilian States to remove their export tax.

Mr. PAYNE is wrong. He would be right if Brazil's competitors were able to supply our demand for coffee, but as it is Brazil is able to dictate terms almost absolutely. The total world production of coffee during the last four years is reported as 68,738,909 bags of 132 pounds each. Brazil was the source of nearly 80 per cent. of the entire quantity. The United States alone consumes nearly twice as much coffee as is produced in all the countries of the world excepting Brazil. Moreover an export tax on coffee is an important source of revenue to most if not all of the Latin American countries in which the berry is produced for export. In addition to these influences there is the fact that the coffees of other countries are of better grades than the great bulk of the Brazilian product and command higher prices. The export tax of the Brazilian States is an ad valorem tax amounting to about three-quarters of a cent a pound. In addition to this there is the surtax of nearly half a cent a pound imposed under the valorization scheme.

The operation of the provision of the Payne bill would unquestionably result in the imposition of about one and one-quarter cents a pound on all except a comparatively small percentage of the coffee imported. Competition would not compel the States of Brazil to change their present system. Brazil's grip on the world's coffee pot is about as tight as the grip of the United States on raw cotton, and is much stronger than Mr. PAYNE'S grasp of the coffee question.

The Significant Educational Movement in China.

The Chinese, fitting themselves to be a modern people and a world power, are so terribly in earnest about the matter that while the observer may feel like laughing at some ludicrous aspects of the educational movement he is sobered when he reflects that if the Chinese make as much progress as the Japanese have done under the influence of Western ideas it will soon be China, and not Japan, that the white race must reckon with.

We are prone to regard the Chinese as so bound by tradition, so benighted and so servile to authority that it is impossible to conceive of them as moved by an impulse to reform and better

themselves. The events of the last fifteen years, however, have shaken the complacency of even their rulers and scholars, so that these now admit the expediency of grafting Western ideas upon the ancient system of education that was to endure to the end of time. The great body of the people have been profoundly stirred by the unexpected and signal triumph of Japan over the most populous of Western nations, and they seem to realize that unless China learns all the things that have made Japan a first class Power and supreme in the East their fate will be that of a race subject to either Japan or Russia. Of the new educational movement in China Professor PAUL S. REINSCH gives a familiar account in an article in the April number of the *Atlantic Monthly*. It is a subject upon which as a student of world politics as affected by the rise of Japan he may be regarded as a competent authority.

Professor REINSCH tells us that China is in a greater hurry than ever Japan was to get a modern education and acquire the symbols of power. Following the report of a commission in 1904 an edict was issued discontinuing the literary examinations for office that were hoary with 2,000 years of custom, and about the same time a national board of education was organized to create a public school system and introduce Western courses of study. There are already kindergartens, lower and upper primary schools, academies and colleges in every province.

In addition to the schools enumerated there have also been established a large number of agricultural and technical institutions of various kinds from the farming school, to which graduates of the primary school are admitted, to the technical colleges, which require a much longer preparation on the part of the students. There are also normal schools and special schools for law and political science. The latter are intended especially for the supplementary training of Government officials. The national board dealing with educational matters is under the leadership of JUNO CHING, a progressive Manchurian official.

But the execution of the new plan of education is not easy among a people who are both poor and ignorant and cursed with corrupt officials. Embezzlement of school funds is sometimes charged by the native press; teachers strike if their pay is insufficient or withheld; boycotts of unpopular teachers are not uncommon; the pupils themselves "strike," and worst of all the populace, inflamed by demagogues against the new education, tear down school buildings in the rural districts. But in the cities and towns the desire for a modern education and the ambition to excel in school work are almost fanatical, if the term may be used, and the scholars are extremely proud of the uniform prescribed for them. Suicides to impress upon a community the need of funds for new schools are not unusual, the victims leaving letters appealing for contributions.

Japan is actively seeking to control, or at least direct, the new educational movement, preparing and distributing "tons of school books, histories, geography and scientific apparatus," but, strange to say, Germany is also on the alert to turn the situation to her advantage for trade and political purposes. In the opinion of Professor REINSCH the Chinese will have to suffer for some time from "the ravages of pseudo-science," for they are most eager to learn and their credulity knows no bounds at present. The West may furnish instruction in technical matters, engineering, physical science, and so on, but "in the general interpretation of cultural and philosophical ideas Japan will continue to hold a prominent position in the Orient."

New Deals for the Military?

Colonel GEORGE F. E. HARRISON of the Coast Artillery Corps, U. S. A., died at Old Point, Va., last Thursday night. He had been retired some months ago as a consequence of the recently ordained trial ride. Up to that time he had for four years commanded at Fort Monroe. He was in full possession of his faculties. No duty connected with his service as commandant required him to use a horse; but the riding test was ordained, it turned out that he had heart disease, and he was put on the retired list at the age of 57 or 58, six years before his time.

Whether the test ride had anything to do with the result can only be conjectured. Up to that moment, however, he seemed to be in perfect health; he was no more required to scamper fifteen or twenty miles on horseback than to climb the Washington Monument or manipulate an aeroplane, and for all we know to the contrary he might have gone on indefinitely in the discharge of his duty at Fort Monroe or at some other coast defense. He had several years to serve, and he was undoubtedly capable of meeting all the legitimate demands of his occupation, or so it appeared at that time. The question is whether the ride developed his complaint; and that can never be satisfactorily settled now. The fact remains that he was forced to undergo a strain which nothing in the ordinary course of his duties called for, and to that unnecessary stress he may or may not have succumbed. Certainly his death followed close upon the equestrian competition, which is all we really know.

Is it not about time to introduce into our military service some standards that at least savor of practical sanity? In both the army and the navy there is room for officers of all ages and classes. That we want the younger and more vigorous men to the front is beyond controversy, but is there any reason why those of ripe experience and prolonged service should be retired? If they should be retired, who is to replace them? Some must gallop with their troops, and others live upon the bridge, yet there are still those who, qualified by long familiarity, are competent to discharge duties of which the youngsters have no conception whatever. There is a place for the athlete and a place for the student and the philosopher. Our military service is many-sided. It calls for many talents. If active officers are needed here, experienced officers are needed there. Some prance and riot on the firing line,

the others rest in swivel chairs to animate and energize their juniors. It is a progression. The captains of to-day are the graybeards of to-morrow, but all fit into their places and all have useful duties to perform.

As we see it, these athletic tests are both harmful and mischievous. They throw no light upon the individual's professional ability. They merely certify that he is qualified for miscellaneous and unmeaning acrobatics.

Shall not the tests of competency in the army and the navy now contemplate some standard other than that of callisthenics?

The Second Battle of Hastings.

We have a misty recollection of having learned at great expense from EDWARD—as he would spell it—AUGUSTUS FREEMAN that the Battle of Hastings, famous for TAILLEFER and WILLIAM the Conqueror and other ancestors of "prominent" American families, was or ought to be called the Battle of Senlac. May that illustrious historian "who has revived for us the savage manners of our ancestors" not grow from the shades if we mention the second Battle of Hastings, the Wild Route to Hastings, perhaps it should be called, which was fought or followed by those gilt edged warriors the Scots Guards on St. Patrick's day. The English papers almost hunk over this "dash" to Hastings or thereabouts to repel an imaginary but awful invader. Let us suppose that WILLIAM the Conqueror has landed at Hastings. Automobilitize the automobile corps. Up, Scots Guards, and at 'em! "A whole battalion of the Guards, with their guns, ammunition, medical stores, tools, food, water, blankets and other stores at full war strength." Foreign military attaches, devil-wagoners all, have been instructed by their Governments to watch this great automobilization. So the secretary of the Automobile Club, the happiest man anywhere in England that day, tells us.

Automobilitized were 286 cars; "chariots" would seem more fitting. You hear them bang and clang over Blackfriars Bridge, Westminster Bridge, Victoria Bridge, to the Crystal Palace, and thence at 9:30 sharp on to:

Beckenham, Bromley, Farnborough, Halton, Station, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Farnham, Lambeth, Finsbury, Hurst Green, Roberts, Bridge, Kent Street, Silver Hill, St. Leonards Hastings.

On, on, not stopping at Sevenoaks to see Mr. PENDENNIS, superior to the solicitations of that bitter beer which is gradually swamping the House of Lords. See, with a charmed reporter's eye, a housemaid "waving a duster enthusiastically" as "car after car loaded with Guardsmen in their gray overcoats" shot by. "Well known war correspondents" were whizzing about in their cars—lucky dogs—surveying the scene, as they survey all scenes, with a critical eye. The men were wrapped up in "big brown army blankets." The day was bitter, but the order was perfect. The dashers and repellers had been allowed to smoke a pipe or cigar, this was its proudest day:

Over fifty fast and luxurious cars, for the most part powerful touring cars up to date in all respects, were placed at the disposal of the general staff and other officers of the press by members of the Automobile Association, and were unfettered by vexatious regulations save those perhaps of necessity and convenience. These formed an extra section which was permitted to travel independently of the columns, and was accordingly distinguished by special flags, the officers utilizing the Union Jack, and the press cars a black and white emblem."

What that that brute KITCHENER think of this tenderness to correspondents? If this relenting attitude of the military officials seems surprising, almost incredible is the assertion that the motor buses were held up. Surely even the Thane of Skibo must speak well of a form or game of war which interrupts for a time the savage amusements of those demon coaches which threaten to kill and have already deafened most of London.

Well, Hastings and lunch were reached shortly after 1 o'clock and the motor transports were safely moored. To all our martial friends, the Putnam Phalanx, the Governor's Foot Guards, the Amoskeag Veterans, the Worcester Continentals, we commend this convenient way of making a campaign. War so engaged in is a puddling, roads and weather permitting, and baiting stations not too far apart.

What's Doing in Porto Velho.

The Porto Velho Weekly Times, printed in Porto Velho de Santo Antonio, Brazil, has a sworn Sunday circulation of thirty-two copies, all returns, exchanges, etc., deducted. Its subscription rates are nothing a year, six months half price, and single copies free. The number before us is in American typewriter, and the art supplement shows a panoramic view of Porto Velho. The business office announces that advertising rates are free, and

"It pays to advertise in the Times." It has the largest circulation in Porto Velho and Santo Antonio.

Porto Velho is the home of the Americans who are building a railway through the jungle from the Madeira River in Brazil to the Mamoré River in Bolivia. The line is to be 250 miles long, and fifty miles will be completed by the end of June. In the rainy season ships drawing twenty-five feet of water can sail up Rio Madeira 1,700 miles to Porto Velho, and the new road will bring out the rubber from Bolivia. Being inhabited by Americans, Porto Velho has politics. The opposition won. The *Times* greets the incoming administration:

"As a man and a boss carpenter we have the greatest respect and admiration for Mr. MORPHY, but as a Mayor—No!"

"We hear that he has an itching palm, and that he is ambitious."

"The Ides of March are approaching, so beware, Mr. Mayor, beware!"

"[Editor's Note.—Of course, we do not suppose any one in Porto Velho will understand that last, but as it sounds well we put it in.]"

A matter of importance as affecting the entire community:

"We hear that the Misses SCHWENK and DOLLS intend to leave on the first boat down the river."

The First Fair.

Adam had just finished the apple.

"I suppose," he said bitterly, "I am now qualified as a consumer."

Herewith he awaited with resignation a tax on his leaves.

Effect.

The Robin—When I sing men take off their hats.

The Cuckoo Clock—When I sing men take off their shoes.

The Suburban Crime.

Mrs. Knicker—"What became of Bridget?"

Mrs. Suburban—Cooked.

river, they having neglected their contract here. It is with much regret we learn this sad news, as the few bright spots in the lives of most of us Porto Velhoans are our frequent thought of visits to Candelaria. Now there will be no attraction there and we will start taking quinine again so as to prevent the fever."

Here are a few extracts from the "sporting column" of the *Times*:

"The Mayor and his lieutenant are engaged in a struggle for supremacy over a cribbage board. This seems to be their first attempt in this line—their former efforts being directed in somewhat less strenuous undertakings. What next, we wonder—pingpong or croquet?"

"There is nothing like extremes—the Elephant Hunter is located at Porto Velho now and spends his time in fighting mosquitoes."

"We have another championship to fight over now in Porto Velho. Who is the champion quinine destroyer? Mr. KNAPP lays claim to the title and challenges all comers."

A clubhouse is being built, and in it concerts are to be given, games played and the social life of the community enriched. But "Personal Mention and Otherwise" calls:

"JERRY is going on his vacation soon. When next we see Mr. CONN he will be a blushing bride."

"He is going to be married and his family will reside in Porto Velho."

"What a lucky girl his wife will be, with a husband to do all the washing! Good luck, JERRY!"

"Dr. EMERICK and H. F. MEYERS went on an exploring expedition up Mosquito Creek in a little last canoe one day last week."

"The doc did the rowing and the engineer the paddling, and it is reported that they were both scared stiff when the boat commenced to wobble."

"A man was found drowned near Camp 6 one day last week. He was a native of Uruguay."

"On Thursday last Mr. LIESNER's sloth skin had another airing."

Judge DANE is certainly a persistent fisherman. He is seen standing for hours on the banks of the estuary dangling a line, but always waits till after dark to bring those minnows home.

"Mr. PICKETT earned the name of 'rough rider' last week at Candelaria."

"However, he got on that mule again, after being kicked off."

"Mr. BENTZ has been appointed by the Mayor captain of the Port. Mr. BENTZ has had considerable experience in this line, having served his time as captain of the port of Butte, Mon."

"Miss COOPER is up the line visiting friends, but is expected down to-day."

"There were fourteen deaths reported during the month of January, but no white man succumbed."

Here is the weather report, giving some notion of the climatic conditions under which the *Times* is produced:

"Rainfall, '09, to date, 25.15."

"Rainfall, '08, to date, 24.77."

"Mean temperature, February 1, '08, to February 1, '09, between hours of 6:30 A. M. and 6:30 P. M., 81.4."

"Highest temperature at Porto Velho for years 1906-9 to date, 90° F."

"Lowest temperature at Porto Velho for same period, 67° F."

"Water level February 27, '09, 94.71 M."

"Highest known level, 95.94 M."

"Highest level 1904, 95.30 M."

Not an entirely attractive spot in which to turn out a four page newspaper after office hours. The editor is not unkind of the discomforts he and his friends endure:

"Mr. CROSBY, formerly foreman of Camp 5, leaves for New York and Mexico to-day."

"Mr. BOKIN also leaves soon for God's Country."

The Porto Velho *Times* is worth reading, which is more than can be said for many publications produced under less discouraging circumstances.

The question: "Resolved, That all corporations engaged in interstate commerce should be compelled to take out a Federal charter" was put through the mills of logic (the collegiate, intercollegiate variety) at Cambridge, New Haven and Princeton simultaneously on Friday night. In this triangular contest Harvard beat Yale at Cambridge, Yale beat Princeton at New Haven, and Princeton beat Harvard at Princeton. In each of the three debates the negative side won.

An analytic report of the logomachy at Cambridge indicates that the affirmative argument turned upon "the evils of State incorporation by which one State with lax incorporation laws can injure the business of all other States." The negative argument that did the work was "overcentralization." Probably Yale at New Haven and Princeton at Princeton followed the same route to the favor of the judges; these are the obvious pros and cons of the subject.

Merely in the interests of clarity we suggest to the Hon. JESSE PHILLIPS that he call his primary bill secondary.

We observe with kindly interest the bill introduced by the Hon. EDGAR TRUMAN BRACKETT of Saratoga providing that the State shall acquire the mineral springs at Saratoga and create there, as was done at Niagara Falls, a State reservation, at a cost of \$1,000,000. The Senator from Saratoga is never more interesting than when he is devising some original method for the enrichment of the State.

Senator BRACKETT's bill to preserve the Saratoga springs provides for the appointment of a commission to acquire the properties, by condemnation or purchase, at a cost not exceeding \$1,000,000. The members of the commission must serve without salary. The revenue derived from the sale of the waters will be turned in to the State treasury, and it is asserted that the revenue thus derived will be sufficient not only to operate and maintain the properties but to pay the interest and a substantial payment every year on the sum invested.

Those who know Saratoga mineral waters declare that their medicinal properties are just as strong now as ever.

For the Panama wayman Man of Happiness.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: If you will admit married couples to the Hall of Fame I will propose the names of Roger Moore and Miss Flora Wunsnet, who were joined in wedlock here to-day. C. H. FRAIR.

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa., March 25.

The Spring Sanctuary.

Mrs. Knicker—I always plan my clothes in church.

Knicker—And I plan my fish stories.

THE ICONOCLASTIC FUTURISTS.

When Gustave Courbet urged forty years ago that a vast bonfire should be made of the Louvre and all its contents he was expressing a sentiment not peculiar to himself or to his generation. Not a few artists and literary men in Europe have from time to time inveighed against the inherited treasures of the ages as a deadening burden on present effort, and the idea comes up again in a manifesto published in Italy and France by a group of young writers. In spite of the paradoxical violence of its language this document has attracted serious attention in both countries.

The Paris *Figaro* reproduced it verbatim, with a prefatory note to this effect: "Monsieur F. E. Marinetti, the Italian and French poet of remarkable and passionate talent, supported by a pleiad of enthusiastic disciples, has just founded the school of 'Futurism,' whose theories far surpass in boldness those of any previous or contemporary school." That mature poet and dramatist M. Edmond Harancourt appreciated the "Futurists" in the *Gazette* as follows:

I have no taste for attacking windmills, however noisy, but the poets of this school are men of the nature of prophets, and I am ready to believe in the sincerity of their iconoclasm. Moreover, they are not alone in their abolitionist mood: we are growing accustomed to eloquent appeals to destroy everything. However outrageous such views may appear, it would be a mistake to dismiss them with a smile.

The manifesto reads somewhat strangely, but, as M. Harancourt points out, it seems to spring from a real need and a genuine intuition. Here are some extracts from it:

We mean to extol the love of danger, aggressiveness, feverish insomnia, the athletic step, the quick eye, the look, the box on the ears and the blow of the fist.

We proclaim that the beauty of life has been enriched by a new splendor—that of speed: a automobile is lovelier than the Winged Victory.

We would destroy museums, libraries, etc., and deliver all countries, but especially Italy, from the garbage of professors, archaeologists, cicerones and antiquarians.

We would rid the land of the museums that cover it like cemeteries. To admire an old picture is to turn your sensibility into a funeral urn instead of a flower. The museum is a tomb. Would you waste your best forces in a futile retrospective ecstasy from which you can only emerge worn out and diminished? The daily march of life, the march of the world, is a morbid invalid, but not for the young, for the virtue, for the heirs of the future. Let the kindly invalids come, then! Let the canals be turned into the museum.

The complaint of these manifestos is not that the omnipresence of old masterpieces prevents the public from noticing their modern productions, but that this "great cloud of witnesses" hypnotizes the artists themselves, comes between them and life, separates them from nature, diverts their creative energy into a sort of catacomb. Leopardi once said that no man could possibly attain to greatness if when he reached his twenty-fifth year his father was still alive. The manifestos speak in one passage exactly in that sense. They say: "Our subject is the dominating presence of the past in the life of a youth burning to be up and doing in the wide world, but held back in tutelage."

The instinctive experience of such men of talent as Courbet and Marinetti, who have felt in their own lives the weight of that tremendous hypnotizing shadow, cannot, as M. Harancourt says, "be dismissed with a smile." To yield fresh harvests must not every field be more or less cleared of the vestiges of past crops?

Of course, the question is many-sided. Europe is always objecting to our attempts at artistic innovation that we neglect the indispensable factor of continuity or unbroken tradition. Here as in most other places the matter is of degree. If we need more numerous tangible evidences of the past, those French and Italian artists feel that they require more of our "tabula rasa."

Reported Sentiments of Mr. Taft Concerning Direct Nominations.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Your editorial article of to-day about the relations of the President and Mr. Root to the direct primary plan for which Governor Root has been the champion has been read by those who attribute motives to their adversaries instead of answering their arguments.

Senator Root occupies such a position in the public mind that his criticisms—directly or indirectly. The direct primary, by the way, is by precedent if not by law prohibited from challenging those who attack him covertly, especially on matters of State policy, especially a State in which he has personal interests.

It happened that I had a talk with Mr. Taft last December, when he was visited by Senator Fulton of Oregon, where the direct nomination act created the anomaly of forcing members of the legislature to pledge themselves to support the direct primary candidate, no matter what his party. Mr. Fulton told Mr. Taft that his downfall had been accomplished by winning for the successful nominee, Mr. Calkins, through the existence of the Republican party in Oregon. The Oregon law made this possible, and the proposed Hughes act would do the same in this State.

Mr. Taft, commenting on the matter, said that he was sorry to see such a situation arise. He had no interest in direct nominations and no prejudice against them. He did, however, say that he felt that all such laws should be so drawn as to exclude members of any party from voting at the primaries of another. That was his attitude.

His own record as an opponent of a vulgar machine speaks for itself as against the recently converted Hinman and the sophistries of the Governor of New York.

He has no interest in direct nominations, but he has a political organization in one of the gravest perils in the Hughes act, and, in my opinion, leads to results similar to those which increased the Democratic vote in the Senate at the hands of a Republican Legislature. D.

New York, March 25.

Queen Mdoluvukzi, the Female Elephant.

From the *Pail Mail Gazette*.

Somehow or other she expects a country with such a name as Swaziland to be happy, and sure enough, Mr. Coryndon, the Commissioner of the country, who is just leaving on his return to Mbabane, capital, and has just been through the inevitable interview, paints a rosy picture. The country, he says, has never been more prosperous than at present, and he indirectly attributes this state of affairs to the wisdom, simplicity and alertness of the Chief Regent, who is in the application of Mdoluvukzi, which is being interpreted, the Female Elephant. For twenty-five years she has administered justice from her native kraal and been a loyal friend of England. When she travels in state her coach is a cart drawn by six mules and her retinue of chiefs and natives is on the grand scale one would expect from a lady of her name.

First Fare on the Comet.

From the *Glasgow Herald*.

Dr. John Inglis remembers a conversation with an old gentleman who claimed to have been the first to pay passage money on board the first passenger steamer in Europe—the historic Comet. The voyage undertaken was from Glasgow to Palermo, four days, and the passenger car and the fare was four shillings. It was taken by Henry Bell himself, the Comet was stopped and waited for half an hour till the steamer had been ordered to an inn, where the first fare was the toast of prosperity to the pioneer passenger steamer.

The Spring Sanctuary.

Mrs. Knicker—I always plan my clothes in church.

Knicker—And I plan my fish stories.

ZELAYA'S ARBITRARY RULE.

A Dark Picture of Conditions in Nicaragua by an American Observer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The Emery claim, which is now the subject of sharp debate between the State Department and President Zelaya of Nicaragua, is explained as follows: "The Emery" Company had acquired some years ago a concession of the sole right to cut and export mahogany and cedar from a great part of the Atlantic slope. The contract of concession provided that in case of the breach of certain conditions the concession would be null. All disputes were to be settled by arbitration and the award of the arbitrators was to be final.

Some time ago the Government of Nicaragua asserted that by reason of the breach of some of these duties the concession had lapsed. A board of arbitration was constituted to try the question of nullity and found that although the Emery Company had been guilty of some trifling breaches of the conditions, it was not at that time entitled to ask for a declaration of nullity because with knowledge of all the facts it had asked and received certain advance payments of stumpage dues. When the period for the advance payment of the concession had expired the Government contended that the arbitrators' finding of breach of duty came into effect to cancel the concession, and the President decreed cancellation and seized the board of other property of the company.

He then called in an American man-of-war called and insisted on their release.

The Emery Company disputed the construction of the finding of the arbitrators and maintained that in accordance with the laws and the Constitution of Nicaragua the President was not entitled to act without a judgment of the competent Judges of the judicial branch of the Government, and that cancellation of the concession and seizure of property was without redress in Nicaragua. The State Department intervened to arrange an arbitration to be presided over by Mr. Creel, then Mexican Ambassador. It is this arbitration to which Zelaya is reluctant to submit. The issue is of denial of justice.

A more flagrant abuse of law and justice has been suffered by those engaged in the banana industry, which because it provides a regular steamship service to the United States has become a bone of contention in the country. In 1904 two steamship companies were running to Bluefields, one from New Orleans and the other from Miami. Both were sending their ships seventy miles up the Rio San Juan to Bluefields, a port of call for the company's banana ships for a quarter of a century at least. In 1904 an agent of the banana trust in alliance with a New Orleans company procured from Zelaya a concession of the sole right to navigate the river for twenty years, and to that end carried the right to buy all bananas produced in the country at prices not in fact exceeding the cost of production. This concession, the independent interests declared, was unconstitutional and an outrageous abuse of power. The President did not permit these questions to be determined by the courts.

Although the Constitution declares that no one is to be deprived of the sacred right of property, the President, by his arbitrary action, has taken away the property of the banana companies without compensation. The President has taken away the property of the banana companies without compensation. The President has taken away the property of the banana companies without compensation.

These experiences are said to be typical of Zelaya's long course of despotic disregard of law and justice, and which confidence in his government has been steadily decreasing. If we need more numerous tangible evidences of the past, those French and Italian artists feel that they require more of our "tabula rasa."

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Your editorial article of to-day about the relations of the President and Mr. Root to the direct primary plan for which Governor Root has been the champion has been read by those who attribute motives to their adversaries instead of answering their arguments.

Senator Root occupies such a position in the public mind that his criticisms—directly or indirectly. The direct primary, by the way, is by precedent if not by law prohibited from challenging those who attack him covertly, especially on matters of State policy, especially a State in which he has personal interests.

It happened that I had a talk with Mr. Taft last December, when he was visited by Senator Fulton of Oregon, where the direct nomination act created the anomaly of forcing members of the legislature to pledge themselves to support the direct primary candidate, no matter what his party. Mr. Fulton told Mr. Taft that his downfall had been accomplished by winning for the successful nominee, Mr. Calkins, through the existence of the Republican party in Oregon. The Oregon law made this possible, and the proposed Hughes act would do the same in this State.

Mr. Taft, commenting on the matter, said that he was sorry to see such a situation arise. He had no interest in direct nominations and no prejudice against them. He did, however, say that he felt that all such laws should be so drawn as to exclude members of any party from voting at the primaries of another. That was his attitude.

His own record as an opponent of a vulgar machine speaks for itself as against the recently converted Hinman and the sophistries of the Governor of New York.

He has no interest in direct nominations, but he has a political organization in one of the gravest perils in the Hughes act, and, in my opinion, leads to results similar to those which increased the Democratic vote in the Senate at the hands of a Republican Legislature. D.

New York, March 25.

Queen Mdoluvukzi, the Female Elephant.

From the *Pail Mail Gazette*.

Somehow or other she expects a country with such a name as Swaziland to be happy, and sure enough, Mr. Coryndon, the Commissioner of the country, who is just leaving on his return to Mbabane, capital, and has just been through the inevitable interview, paints a rosy picture. The country, he says, has never been more prosperous than at present, and he indirectly attributes this state of affairs to the wisdom, simplicity and alertness of the Chief Regent, who is in the application of Mdoluvukzi, which is being interpreted, the Female Elephant. For twenty-five years she has administered justice from her native kraal and been a loyal friend of England. When she travels in state her coach is a cart drawn by six mules and her retinue of chiefs and natives is on the grand scale one would expect from a lady of her name.

First Fare on the Comet.

From the *Glasgow Herald*.

Dr. John Inglis remembers a conversation with an old gentleman who claimed to have been the first to pay passage money on board the first passenger steamer in Europe—the historic Comet. The voyage undertaken was from Glasgow to Palermo, four days, and the passenger car and the fare was four shillings. It was taken by Henry Bell himself, the Comet was stopped and waited for half an hour till the steamer had been ordered to an inn, where the first fare was the toast of prosperity to the pioneer passenger steamer.

The Spring Sanctuary.

Mrs. Knicker—I always plan my clothes in church.

Knicker—And I plan my fish stories.

MORAL TEST FOR VOTERS.

Let the Good Men and Women Vote, and Exclude All Others.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Albert R. Gallatin seems to think that if women were allowed to vote, the "unfortunate" class would predominate in the polls. How many men would vote if the elective franchise depended on moral qualifications? It ought to be so. Our country would be safer if in the hands of its moral citizens of both sexes.

It is my belief that men and women rise to like heights of spirituality. Why do we hark back to the days of chivalry when a few women were placed on pedestals but woman as a whole was left to work out her own salvation? Was not the world too unkind enough to show the world the fallacy of such reasoning? If men have worshipped heroes, and probably both have fallen far short of the ideal. This is the twentieth century, not the middle ages. The world is open to all men who will help all women by giving them the opportunity to reach the highest destiny for which they were intended.

How many "unfortunates" would there be if women were educated and earning a decent wage at work that would not rob them of their health and vitality? They are fallen to that class who have no chance to leave it and mingle among her sisters placed on pedestals. The Government is not to be "unfortunate," and that law which is "harder to deal with and less susceptible to reform than any other class of the population" is nothing for her to look forward to once she has stepped from the beaten path.

The "Standing Evil" declares that women who work compel them to stand all day, after few years' work work at an industry of becoming mothers. This is a startling statement, and the whole world needs to consider it. If industrial conditions are such that it is necessary for women to work outside of the home, and if that work is a means of earning a living, why are they it is any wonder that she wishes to take a hand in a government which will not supply her with health and vitality? Why are they restless and seek a remedy? Is it any wonder that they hope to alleviate their misery by the vote?

If a boy is held where a baby cannot get it he will cry for it. We are making the women of this country cry for it. We are making ourselves look as ridiculous as we think they do. Let us give them a trial and see what they will do. We are sure they will do better than we expect. We are sure they will do better than we expect. We are sure they will do better than we expect.